

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HALIFA 00211 290839Z
ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMCONSUL HALIFAX
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2141
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
ALL CONSULATES IN CANADA

UNCLAS HALIFAX 0211

E O 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, CA
SUBJECT: PEI ELECTION AFTERMATH - CAMPBELL SAYS
MESSAGE RECEIVED

- CIVIL SERVICE REFORM PROMISED
REF: HALIFAX 0204

1. PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND PREMIER ALEX CAMPBELL,
REFLECTING ON HIS NARROW RE-ELECTION VICTORY APRIL 24,
PROMISED ON APRIL 27, REFORM OF PEI CIVIL SERVICE
AND MORE PROMINENT ROLE FOR HIS CABINET MINISTERS.

2. CAMPBELL SAID PEI CIVIL SERVANTS HAVE BEEN
INSENSITIVE TO NEEDS OF ISLANDERS AND ACCUSED THEM OF
BEING INFLEXIBLE OR UNWILLING TO GO THE EXTRA MILE
IN DEALINGS WITH THE PUBLIC. THERE HAVE BEEN TOO MANY
FEET UP ON THE TABLE . . . AND WE WILL MAKE IT CLEAR TO
PERSONS ON THE PUBLIC PAYROLL TO GET OFF THEIR BUTTS AND
ASSIST ANYONE WHO APPROACHES ANY BOARD OR COMMISSION, TO
HELP THEM WITH WHATEVER THEY CAME IN TO ACHIEVE.
CAMPBELL PROMISED A MORE FLEXIBLE AND CO-OPERATIVE
GOVERNMENT THROUGH CHANGED CIVIL SERVANT ATTITUDES AND
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SIMPLIFIED GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS.

3. CAMPBELL CLAIMED THAT HIS MINISTERS AND MLA S WILL
BE MADE TO WORK HARDER WITH THE MINISTERS TAKING A MORE
PROMINENT ROLE IN THEIR DEPARTMENOX. ONE OF THE FIRST
TASKS FOR THE MINISTERS WILL BE TO UNWIND AND UNTAN-
GLE REGULATIONS AND RESTRICTIONS .

4. CAMPBELL DID NOT PLACE EXCLUSIVE BLAME ON CIVIL SERVANTS IN SAYING IT WAS GOVERNMENT IN THE FIRST PLACE THAT DEVELOPED THE REGULATIONS AND RESTRICTIONS. CAMPBELL SAID THAT HE ACCEPTS COMPLETE RESPONSIBILITY FOR ELECTION RESULTS AND PEOPLE'S RESENTMENTS. IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, THAT RESPONSIBILITY IS HELD, CARRIED, AND BORNE BY THE POLITICIAN .

5. CAMPBELL SAID NEW LEGISLATURE COULD BE DISSOLVED AT ANY TIME AND ANOTHER ELECTION CALLED.

6. COMMENT: CAMPBELL'S LIBERAL MAJORITY FELL FROM

24 SEATS JUST BEFORE DISSOLUTION TO 17 SEATS IN 32 SEAT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AS RESULT OF APRIL 24 ELECTION . CAMPBELL, IN STATEMENT ON APRIL 25, SAID ELECTION RESULT WAS MESSAGE TO HIS GOVERNMENT (REFTEL). HE HAS NOW GIVEN HIS INTERPRETATION AS TO WHAT THAT MESSAGE IS - - NEED FOR IMPROVED SERVICES TO CITIZENS THROUGH REFORMED CIVIL SERVICE, SIMPLIFICATION OF GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS, AND GREATER INVOLVEMENT OF POLITICIANS IN ADMINISTRATION OF GOVERNMENT. CAMPBELL HAS APPARENTLY DECIDED THAT THE WAY TO REJUVENATE HIS GOVERNMENT, WHICH HAS BEEN IN OFFICE FOR 12 YEARS, AND IMPROVE HIS PARTY'S POPULARITY, IS TO UNCLASSIFIED

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DO A THOROUGH HOUSECLEANING. IT WILL TAKE ANOTHER TRIP TO THE POLLS TO SEE IF HIS APPROACH IS CORRECT WE THINK IT UNLIKELY, HOWEVER, THAT CAMPBELL WILL, DESPITE HIS STATEMENT GIVEN IN PARA 5 , RISK ANOTHER ELECTION IN THE NEAR FUTURE, ESPECIALLY IN THIS FEDERAL ELECTION YEAR. END COMMENT

7. DRAFTER: R.S. AYLING
AYLING

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NNN

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